

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AUTOMATICALLY
DE-INSTALLING PREVIOUSLY INSTALLED SOFTWARE
BASED ON USER DEFINED PREFERENCES**

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ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is embodied in a system and method for managing software packages that are to be installed on a computer. Basically, the present invention automatically de-installs previously installed software based on user defined preferences to prevent trial, demo or unwanted software and its components from being unnecessarily kept on the user's computer. In general, the present invention includes a de-install module that is associated with the process of installing software on the computer. The de-install module includes a time module that allows the user to choose the time period to keep the software package on the computer before the software is uninstalled. The de-install module can be initiated at the start-up of the computer and then go into a temporary hidden mode that stills stays resident. In other words, during this mode, the de-install module is active, but hidden from the user and only activated when a software package initiates installation on the computer. Alternatively, the de-install module can be a module that is added to existing software packages as part of the software's uninstall module.